



BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT 2023 ORATORICAL COMPETITION

2023 Oratorical Competition Planning Guide

2023 Topic: *"Are Voting Rights Essential for the 21st Century American? Why or Why Not?"*

The Oratorical Competition provides high school students in grades nine through twelve with the opportunity to practice and enhance their public speaking and written communication skills. This planning guide provides all the details you will need to conduct a successful oratorical competition in your chapter or regional council. Students **"MUST"** physically compete at the chapter and regional levels to compete at the national level.

If a chapter or region has only ONE entrant, the chapter president or the regional council president (as appropriate) must submit a written endorsement to the Regional Chair or National Program and Planning Committee Chair (as appropriate) for consideration. Chapters and Regions must also provide the Judges' Score Sheets and Master Score Sheet to the Regional Chair and National Program and Planning Committee Chair, as appropriate.

Competition Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade

AWARDS

Each chapter and/or regional council determines and sponsors its awards.

National Awards:

First Place:	\$1000 and Plaque
Second Place:	\$600 and Plaque
Third Place:	\$400 and Plaque

PLANNING AND PROMOTION

Use the planning calendar below to determine the specific dates to conduct the chapter and/or regional competition. The oratorical brochure has an application form for students to submit to your chapter. Before passing these out, make sure you write your chapter representative/point of contact name and number on the form, along with your application deadline. As you discuss the Oratorical Competition, remember to share Blacks In Government's goals and objectives with school officials, parents, and community leaders. Also, invite them to future chapter meetings.

Talk with as many school officials as possible, contact school counselors and discuss which departments might be most interested in receiving the materials (Speech, English, History, and Language Arts Departments are great places to start. Always leave brochures and flyers!



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CALENDAR

January 2023	<p>Competition packages sent to all chapters and regions</p> <p>Request Training In Communications (TIC) program package to conduct training for students</p>
January/February 2023	<p>Send the information to all local school officials, teachers, civic organizations, churches, and youth facilities about the competition.</p> <p>Distribute the brochure and flyers to all potential sponsors and potential participants.</p> <p>Publicize the Oratorical competition and circulate press releases about the competition.</p> <p>Select three judges, timekeepers, and sergeant at arms for the competition. Use both genders as judges and alternate judges.</p> <p>Judges can be selected from local colleges and universities.</p>
February/March 2023	<p>Chapters conduct competitions (reproduce/purchase certificates of participation for all potential participants) and select local competition winners. Submit the winner to the regional chair.</p> <p>Check with regional councils on the timeframe of regional competitions.</p>
April/May/June 2023	Regional Competitions
July 1, 2023	<p>Submit Regional Winners and all required documents by email to the National Chair. Student entry forms and ALL required documents <i>must be received no later than July 1, 2023</i>. Also, provide names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of primary and alternate chaperones to the National Program and Planning Committee Chair.</p>
Aug 2023	National Competition scheduled during BIG's Annual National Training Institute.
Selecting Judges	<p>Select three judges who will individually rank the entries. Their combined ratings will determine the winners. Judges should not be acquainted with any of the participants. Select both males and females as judges and alternate judges.</p>
Timekeeper	<p>Appoint a timekeeper to record the duration of the orations. To ensure accuracy, the timekeeper should use a stopwatch. It is also recommended that a timing light be used.</p>
Sergeant-at-Arms	<p>Appoint Sergeant-at-Arms to ensure no one enters or leaves the room during an oration. Have one sergeant at arms at each exit plus one (i.e., if there are two exits, three sergeants-at-arms would be</p>



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	needed). For virtual competitions; do not allow anyone to enter the platform during an oration, turn off comments/chats/disable cameras.
Calculations Committee	Appoint two committee members to calculate the judges' final scores and deduct any points based on the time penalty to determine overall competition winners. The penalty system is also in place for participants who provide identifying data during their oration. Penalty deductions are described underscoring procedures.
Handling Ties	In case of a tie, the competition chair will establish the means for determining the 1st place winner. Only ONE 1st place winner can compete at the National level.
Food/Lodging/Travel	Check with your regions to determine what type of support they will provide chapters that participate in the competition. National Blacks In Government will provide information on any travel and lodging funding for youth to attend the National Competition at the National Training Institute.



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Blacks In Government Oratorical Competition General Rules

****Provide these rules to all contestants****

TOPIC: *"Are Voting Rights Essential for the 21st Century American? Why or Why Not?"*

Students must understand the rules and guidelines of the Oratorical Competition, especially the scoring guidelines.

The Blacks In Government (BIG) Oratorical Competition is divided into three competition levels—chapter, regional council, and national. You "MUST" compete at the chapter and regional levels to compete at the national level. If a chapter or region has only ONE entrant, the chapter president or the regional council president (as appropriate) must submit a written endorsement to the Regional Chair or National Program and Planning Committee Chair (as appropriate) for consideration. Chapters and Regions must also provide the Judges' Score Sheets and Master Score Sheet to the Regional Chair and National Program and Planning Committee Chair, as appropriate.

NATIONAL FIRST PLACE WINNERS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE CONTESTS.

Contestants must be in grades nine through twelve and must be in good academic standing.

Contestants shall prepare orations not less than four minutes, no more than six minutes, and must speak on the topic. The penalty for going over or under the time limit is "three (3) points for every 15 seconds over or under the time limit." A timing light is recommended for use during the competition.

Contestants shall not state their names or any other identifying data during their oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). The penalty for stating identifying data is two (2) points.

Birth certificate and a PDF copy of the presentation "MUST" be submitted via email to the Regional and National Competition Chairs before the competition. Please encrypt the email for protection of PII.

Any quotations or copyright material used in the speech must be identified properly.

Blacks In Government shall have the right to edit, publish, and record any oration entered into competition without payment to the author.



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COMPETITION RULES

1. Contestants draw numbers for the order of presentation.
2. Timing begins on the first word uttered and stops on the last word. The penalty system is in place for those who go over or under the time limit—three points for every 15 seconds over or under the time limit.
3. No one is allowed to enter or leave the room during an oration. For virtual competitions; do not allow anyone to enter the platform during an oration, turn off comments/chats/disable cameras.
4. Contestants do not state your name or any other identifying data during your oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, or sponsoring chapter). The penalty system is in place for those who provide identifying data—two points.
5. A minimum of one minute of silence is granted to judges after an oration.
6. No pictures or other activities are allowed during an oration other than the official BIG photographer or videographer.
7. The protest must be made before the final scoring. The competition chair shall have the final ruling on all protests.

SCORING

Scoring procedures of the competition will be identical and will conform to the following point system.

CATEGORY	SUB TOTALS	TOTAL POINTS
1. Delivery		25
Articulation	10 points	
Vocal Variety	10 points	
Gestures	5 points	
2. Effectiveness		30
Clear Purpose	15 points	
Ability to Sell Your Position	15 points	
3. Content		35
Referenced Facts	20 points	
Material's Substance	15 points	
4. Appearance		10
Professional Attire	5 points	
Grooming	5 points	



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GRAND TOTAL		100
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Calculations Committee will deduct any points based on going under or over the time limit - three points for every 15 seconds over or under the limit.

Calculations Committee will also deduct two points if the contestant states any identifying data during the oration (i.e., name of school, city, state, sponsoring chapter, or region).

PROTESTS

Individuals may challenge/protest a decision or rule interpretation of the youth competition during the Chapter, Regional, and National competitions using the following guidelines:

In chapter competitions, the protestor must challenge a decision within 72 hours by notifying the Chapter Program and Planning Chair (CPPC). Once an opposition is made, the CPPC shall notify the contestants potentially impacted by the challenge/protest.

If the challenger does not receive the answers required, a written appeal request must be sent by email to the Regional Program and Planning Chair (RPPC) within seven (7) days of the chapter's decision. The written appeal should include all the facts and arguments that would support reversing the decision. The RPPC will make a decision and email a response to the challenger within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal.

If the RPPC fails to comply within seven (7) days or the challenger is unsatisfied with the response, the challenger has seven (7) days to forward the appeal to the National Program and Planning Chair (NPPC). Once the appeal is submitted to the National level, the NPPC will determine the appropriate Chapter, Regional, and National officers required to vet the challenge/protest on a case-by-case basis.

Protests made at the national competitions must be submitted by the Regional Program and Planning Chair (RPPC); the protestor must challenge a decision within 72 hours by notifying the National Program and Planning Chair (NPPC) in writing via email. The protest must be based on facts with documentation.

The decision made at the National level will be the final and binding decision. The NPPC will provide a written justification for the final decision to the challenger, CPPC, and the RPPC within seven (7) days of receipt.

POINTERS FOR YOUTH

Overview: Overview: In researching the 27 amendments, students learn about the Nation's laws within the amendments and understand citizenship rights and privileges. Students should include:

1. Importance of Voter Registration
2. How Millennials are impacting elections.
3. Why some eligible Americans are not registered voters.
4. Hot topics for the 2024 Presidential election.

Key Points for oration



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1. How would you describe diversity, equity, and inclusion?
2. What is equity, and why is it important to advancing diversity and inclusion?
3. Do you believe the current diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts are working or failing?
Why?
4. How do you think we should approach diversity, equity, and inclusion as a nation?



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Attachment: BIG Oratorical and STEM Virtual Competition Guidelines

SCHEDULE YOUR COMPETITION

- Schedule your competition at a time that works for all involved.
- Determine if you need people to register to attend. Registering can help you track who will attend your competition before it starts, how many joined, and follow-up communications after the competition.
- Get help by enlisting a competition team who can help you with logistics while students focus on delivering their orations.
- Make sure you have a communication plan, including promoting your competition on webpages, social media, and email.
- It helps to contact primary attendees and send reminders leading to the competition, including an hour before, so people remember to join on the competition day.

SCHEDULE A REHEARSAL

- Invite committee POCs, students, mentors, timekeeper, calculators, and judges to the **rehearsal**. Have someone act as an attendee to assess the experience.
- Have students and committee members connect in the same manner from the same location and device used for the live event.
- Test everyone's audio. Assign someone to control muting.
- Videotape the rehearsal. Share video in the rehearsal to ensure participants can be seen and heard clearly. Adjust lighting if needed, and have them remove distracting items from their background.
- Have all students test content sharing and any multi-media sharing from the same device they will use in the competition.
- Check the timing, transitions, and interactive features you will use.



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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The host role is usually assigned to the person who starts the competition. The host needs to have a user account. Others will be invited
- Assign an MC to welcome attendees, introduce speakers, keep time, and manages interactive features.
- You can also an assigned person that will grant privileges to attendees, students, and judges, and manage the recording, and end the competition.
- Discuss logistics and etiquette, like identifying when presenters mute or unmute, and how comments and questions will be handled.
- If you are assigning other presenters, practice these specific activities in your rehearsal.

DAY OF THE COMPETITION

STEM Project Judging:

- Schedule the STEM project judging before their presentations. Only allow committee members, STEM students, mentors, judges, calculators, and timekeeper

DAY OF PRESENTATIONS (STEM AND ORATORICAL STUDENTS)

- Regional or Chapter committee chairs should assign numbers for presenters by pulling names from a bag. Notify students of their numbers. Rules in guidelines still apply concerning sharing personal information.
- All participants should join 15-30 minutes early to allow testing their connection on the day.
- Distribute electronic programs and rules of engagement documents before the competition. That way, attendees will not be left out if they cannot see the presentation or need to join via audio-only because of low bandwidth.



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GO LIVE

- Welcome attendees and announce that the call will be starting in x amount of minutes.
- Go over the rules of engagement for attendees like muting and opportunities they will have to comment on.
- Tell your audience if you will be sharing your content and recording after the competition.

AFTER THE COMPETITION

- Plan to stay in the virtual competition after the scheduled time has concluded to answer additional questions and save chat panels for post-competition follow-up.
- Make available the recording links or shared content from the competition.